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5-2-03

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q62980

RECEIVED

Jun SUZUKI, et al.

MAY 01 2003

Appln. No.: 09/778,015

Group Art Unit: 2653

Technology Center 2600

Confirmation No.: 6229

Examiner: George J. Letscher

Filed: February 7, 2001

For: LENS DRIVE DEVICE, SUSPENSION UNIT FOR LENS DRIVE DEVICE, AND
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, along with a copy of the corresponding Communication from a Foreign Patent Office.

1. EP 0 784 315 A (PIONEER ELECTRONIC CORP.)
2. JP 09 282690 A (ASAHI CHEM IND CO. LTD) with English Abstract
3. EP 0516 390 A (PIONEER ELECTRONIC CORP.)
4. US 5,627,687 A (FUJISAWA HIROTOSHI)

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicants are filing

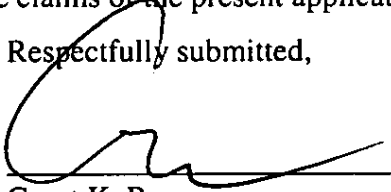
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U.S. Appln. No. 09/778,015

concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: April 28, 2003



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 28, 2003